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CACHE VALLEY WEDDING



Planning a Cache Wedding

It can really happen very quickly, like in the twinkling of an eye.

Adrianne Elder had a friend in dental school. This friend knew a boy from High School. They were just getting a group together to hang out. And instantly the magic happened for him. Adrianne was saying she just wasn't ready to get serious.

Cache Valley is known for quick engagements.

For Christopher Guymon, the son of Dr. Myron and Melinda Guymon, the Summer of 2009 was the summer to fall in love with Adrianne. He just had to convince Adrianne he was her knight in shining armor. He was valiant and six months later wedding bells were ringing.

The engagement was two months, a fast two months at that. The wedding dress was first on the list. First stop was downtown Logan where there are four bridal dress shops. Once the dress was found the next thing on the list for Adrianne was to pick her colors fuchsia, black and white. Once the colors are decided

then the shopping for everything else can begin.

Getting pictures for the engagement was next. Pictures for Adrianne and Christopher must be easy. They are both photogenic with their great big perfect smiles. Kara Welling from Kara's Koncepts designed the announcements. Kara has a graphic design business. Her invitations are custom made to the couple. The announcements turned out beautiful. Kara has a website www.karaskoncepts.com

The announcements were sent off two and half weeks before the wedding. That was pretty good since they had only been engaged less than one and a half months when the announcements were sent. They were registered at Bed Bath and Beyond. A bridal registry makes it so much easier for guests to give that special gift. Bed Bath and Beyond has a great staff that specializes with the brides to help choose the items they would really cherish through the years.

The wedding was set for the Logan LDS Temple on December 19, 2009. Christopher and Adrianne



A Cache wedding

FROM PAGE 3

had the morning to prepare for the noon wedding. They found the staff at the temple to be quite helpful in making everything go smoothly. Then pictures and off to Hamilton's Steak and Seafood for a celebration feast with friends and guests by 2:30 in the afternoon.

Hamilton's creates a great atmosphere to celebrate and help families and friends get to know each other. The fairy tale continued with a dash to the castle. The castle in this story is the newly constructed Castle Manor located 170 W 3900 North in Hyde Park. The Castle Manor is a three-story 21,000-square foot Event Center that could host five events at the same time.

John Simpson from Culinary Concepts did an ice sculpture of the Logan Temple with the wedding date carved in. John was recognized as one of the best chefs in the state. He also assisted in helping put together the dessert bar. Center of the table was the chocolate fountain for the pleasure of chocolate lovers to enjoy. It was a welcome treat for all guests to celebrate the special day.

After the traditional cutting of the cake, throwing the flowers, and garter, it became time to dance. Their song they chose to dance to was "fall for you" by Secondhand Serenade:

*....But hold your breathe
Because tonight will be the night
That I will fall for you
Over again
Don't make me change my mind
Or I won't live to see another day
I swear it's true
Because a girl like you is impossible to find
You're impossible to find.....*

For those who think that they are not ready to get serious, think again. One night will be the night that you will fall in love. You, too, may only have months to plan that special night at the castle. It can really happen very quickly. Like the twinkling of an eye.

— SCOTT FALSLEV, BRIDAL FAIR



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Reading the bride's mind

Consider needs, long-term when using gift registries

The work of planning the wedding and your new life together gets fun when you focus on the registry. Your choices are boundless.

First start with your situation and intention. Determine your needs. Today brides use registries beyond the traditional china, towels and cooking pots. Registries can include sporting goods, hobby items, home improvement and décor, home office, groceries or money towards a home loan.

The advantage of a bridal registry is that you choose what you need most. You can choose the style color and features that best match you and your lifestyle. A bridal registry eliminates the need to return six vacuum cleaners, four blenders and items that the color just doesn't match anything you have. What you choose should reflect your situation. Some couples have been

living on their own for years and have some of the basic items. Some may be moving out on their own for the first time and need all the basic items.

Think of the couple's needs. Do you think the new groom would really enjoy the pink linen? Would you be happy with lots of power tools and sporting goods?

You can choose two to three registries. There are lots of questions you can ask a potential registry. Do they have an online registry? Do they have some perks they give the couple? How easy is it for your guests to give. What are their prices like? Ask them what makes them stand out from other registries.

Each registry functions differently. Some you scan the items and the guest chooses the item you picked and that item is taken off the list. Some they just

collect the money and you shop later with the credit.

When choosing your items think of the long term. Fad patterns soon become out dated. Natural colors like black, white, tan, brown and gray will match your décor for years to come.

You can add accessories to liven things up. Be realistic about the space you have. Think of items that will last and be useful. Don't chose a gadget simply because it is cool. Will you use it? Think of the budgets of your guests. Choose some smaller items and larger items.

For a list of local registries simply log onto www.bridalfaire.org and click gift registry.

THIS INFORMATION WAS PROVIDED BY
SCOTT FALSLEV, DIRECTOR OF BRIDAL
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Getting the word out

How to get wedding announcements you will absolutely love

By Theresa Burch

Things have definitely changed in the wedding scene since five years ago when I was planning my wedding. There were not nearly as many choices available then as there are now. I remember trying to figure out the cutest but cheapest way to get our announcements done. I didn't really know too much about the whole getting married/wedding business, and I didn't know what all my options were.

I regret to say, we ended up taking a photo of us to a large printing company and having them apply our text to it before they printed out 500 4 x 6 cards, half of which are still in a box somewhere (we wanted the bulk discount). Our announcements turned out totally impersonal and boring. Oh, if only I had known then what I know now!

Wedding announcements are the first formal notice people get that you are getting married. You want their first impression of the most important day in your life to be memorable and appealing.

The truth is, there is no one official right way to create your announcement. You can design it yourself, pay someone else to design it and print it yourself, pay someone for both the design and printing, etc. The trick is to create an announcement that matches your personal style and that you will love to look back at years and years later.

The following are some ideas that may help you when thinking about how to do your announcements:

Get pictures taken! Once you have a selection of engagement pictures to choose from, it's much easier to figure out what will look good with them.

Don't feel like you can only choose one picture for your announcement. Digital designs can incorporate as many as you want.

Get an idea of the format you like (different sizes, double-sided or non, material thickness, folding, photo attached with ribbon, envelope style, etc.). Look at as many different wedding announcements as you can find. Often printing companies have samples of past announcements that they let people look through for ideas.

Explore different designs. Some designers provide you with several custom samples to choose from to make sure you get exactly what you want.

Don't feel limited when it comes to finding an affordable printer. The options are almost endless, from local

➤ SEE ANNOUNCEMENTS, PAGE 7

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Announcements: Plan ahead to get the word out



stores to online printing companies. A few minutes of research and price comparing could save you lots!

Ask designers and printers about promotions and discounts. It never hurts to ask, and you may be pleasantly surprised with a discount!

Think about your wedding colors. Would you like your colors incorporated into your announcement? Would your colors look good with your engagement pictures?

Get inspiration for your announcement by looking at craft store products: scrapbook paper designs, prints and textures of fabric, wrapping paper, etc.

If you are designing it yourself, spend some time explore different fonts to see which looks best. Use a variety of different fonts, sizes, and styles to help give your text an artistic look.

Try to describe your personal style using adjectives. Would you like your announcement to look fun, elegant,



bold, rustic, professional, flirty, simple...? This helps you to communicate your style to a designer, or to focus on what exact look you're going for if you are designing it yourself.

Don't be afraid to ask wedding professionals what they recommend. Even if you don't use their services for your wedding, professionals always ap-

preciate positive word-of-mouth and are usually very willing to help.

DON'T SETTLE! Don't get stuck with something you don't really like because you think it's all that you can afford. Explore all your options, and you will find that there are many ways to get super cute but cheap announcements!

Looking back, if I could change one thing about my wedding, it would have been my announcement. I wish that I would have invested more time and creativity into making sure it represented my style and personality. Now that I am a designer, I try to make up for my mistake by helping create announcements that brides absolutely love!

Theresa Burch, Absolute Appeal Design

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Little gifts can add your personal touch to big day

Think about thank-yous

Wedding favors come in many shapes. From traditional candied almonds to philanthropic gifts, anything goes as long as it serves as a reminder of the big day.

"The wedding favor is a way to say thank you to guests for sharing the day with the bride and groom. It's a token to show that the wedding day is as much about the guests as it is about the couple," said Elena Mauer, senior associate editor of Bridal Guide magazine.

Clever keepsakes include small bottles of wine with personalized labels, pocket-size photo albums matching the wedding decor, candles inscribed with the day's date and even Krispy Kreme doughnuts packaged in pairs for the guests to enjoy at home.

"Some couples have even given out miniature versions of the wedding cake with the guests' initials on them. You can really go all out," Mauer said. "I heard of a destination wedding in Texas where they actually gave everyone Stetson hats. There are really some high-end things you can do."

Charitable contributions top the list of trendy favors. In lieu of gifts for their guests, many couples are choosing to donate money to a charity close to their heart.

"More and more couples are doing this because they realize,

when you take the money you would spend on favors and add up the total, you can

really do a lot of good with that money," Mauer said. "The guests like it. They realize that the couple is spending a lot of money on the wedding, and when some of that money can go to help someone else, they really appreciate it."

Make sure each guest gets a card detailing the gesture, however, instead of making a blanket announcement at the reception, Mauer

said.

Unforgettable favors don't have to be lavish or expensive. When packaged in a unique container and personalized with a small tag, virtually any item becomes an instant keepsake.

"Food is definitely the way to go if you're on a budget. Plus, edible favors are really hot right now," Mauer said. Small candies like Jordan almonds, M&Ms

or jellybeans are sure to win over guests of all ages and preferences, especially if they are packaged in a clever way. From embellished candy-filled tins to Chinese takeout containers chock-full of cookies, almost anything goes.

"Packaging is very big right now," Mauer said. "Almost anything can be embellished with a little tag

SEE THANKS, PG. 26



Think of gifts for wedding attendants

It's not all about receiving things

Though generally on the receiving end when it comes to wedding presents, brides and grooms must do some shopping of their own in connection with the big day. Gifts for attendants – including the maid or matron of honor, bridesmaids, best man and groomsmen – are a traditional way of thanking them for being in the wedding party and providing mementos of the day.

When it comes to selecting the gift, the most important thing is to be thoughtful, no matter what your budget, according to Anna Post of The Emily Post Institute.

"It's a good idea for the bride and groom to get their respective attendants the same gift or a variation of the same gift," says Post, the great-great-granddaughter of

etiquette expert Emily Post. "This includes the maid or matron of honor and the best man. It is important that no one feels that they are being treated differently. You don't want to get one an engraved pen and another a book," although variations of the same basic gifts are fine.

"An example would be if a bride gave all of her bridesmaids a pashmina shawl. She might get the same shawl in different colors to suit the individual coloring of each woman," Post says.

"A groom might choose to give each usher a CD of his favorite music. Again, the basic gift is the same, but the choice of



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Bold and bright color choices make a splash

Flowers allow brides to incorporate a personal touch that will make their wedding day unique, whether it is with color or style. The design of the bouquets and arrangements can set the mood of a wedding.

Kacey Weiss chose the color green in honor of her parents' wedding on St. Patrick's Day. Her arrangements and bouquets displayed a rustic look with less traditional flowers. Using green cymbidium orchids with an accent of chocolate brown monkey tails, Weiss had a trendy yet personal arrangement of flowers for her July wedding.

Erin Blair Kluzak, a florist, helps brides take their colors and find corresponding flowers.

"Flowers aren't something most people know about," says Kluzak.

Most flowers are available throughout the year. Julie Mulligan, floral and lifestyle expert for 1-800-Flowers, lists roses, calla lilies and hydrangeas as popular year-round blooms. Tulips, orchids and Gerber daisies also seem to populate

current weddings.

Fall's stronger hues continue to be popular. Mulligan lists mango calla lilies, sunflowers, antique green hydrangeas and red-orange roses as some boldly colored flowers. Chocolate cosmos are popular due to the true brown blooms. Since autumn honors the season of harvest, Cori Russell, editor director of elegala.com, recommends including fruits, vegetables and twigs in flower arrangements. Branches, leaves, acorns, pears or cranberries can create more of a rustic atmosphere. Fill a glass bowl with fruits and vegetables for a centerpiece.

Amy Finley, group editor of LoveToKnow Weddings, says traditional fall colors as well as new color blends are making a statement.

Traditional colors include plum, deep blue, emerald, navy, cranberry and forest green. Nontraditional colors that have hit the aisle are light chocolates, saffrons and grays.

"Pink and chocolate as a color combination is another trend that has proven

This bubbling bride chose green for her July wedding and the florist designed bouquets and arrangements using green cymbidium orchids accented with chocolate-brown monkey tails.

Photo by Copley News

a favorite and is appropriate for a fall wedding," says Finley. "The juxtaposition of these colors offers a fresh appeal that can be carried out in either a formal or informal wedding."

Metallic colors like gold and silver can accent red or brown for fall and add to white for winter weddings, according to Russell. Consider trying bright citrus colors, such as lime, fuchsia or orange.

Winter weddings are rare compared to other seasons. They are usually indoors and tend to be more sophisticated. Monochromatic with white-on-white allows brides to play on the snow and ice theme. Other common winter colors are red, burgundy, silver and forest green, ac-

Hints with floral decisions

FROM PAGE 10

cated. Monochromatic with white-on-white allows brides to play on the snow and ice theme. Other common winter colors are red, burgundy, silver and forest green, according to LoveToKnow Weddings. Red and white roses, snowball mums, daisies, poinsettias, gardenias and magnolia are popular blooms. Holly leaves, berries, pine cones, or evergreen branches can bring some winter cheer to the arrangements or bouquets.

"Take elements of the season and incorporate them with details," says Mulligan.

A recent wedding trend is going green. Not a wedding in all green, but "green" for helping the environment. The wedding party could decorate with organically grown flowers, cluster plants for guests to take home and give out seeds as guest gifts, according to Mulligan. Bablove suggests

a natural pine cone collection for a centerpiece at Christmas or shells to go along with a summer theme.

Submerged flower centerpieces seem to be gaining popularity. Anchored roses, orchids or other blooms remain underwater in a clear glass vase. Kluzak says floating flowers and/or candles are also common. Clusters of vases are a modern, trendy look for tables. Group an odd number of different sized vases. If you are in favor of low table arrangements, Bablove recommends using large blooms like chrysanthemums.

When it comes to bridal bouquets, colorful is in and white is out. Kluzak rarely prepares all-white bouquets for weddings compared to bright bouquet flowers. Most brides prefer hand-tied bouquets versus cascading ones for a less traditional look.

Flowers can put a damper on your

funds, but florists are willing to work with a bride's budget. For a better deal, buy vases and candles instead of leaving the duty up to the florist, says Kluzak. Some florists even rent vases to brides. Pick in-season flowers that are more available; off-season blooms are pricey and hard to find. Bablove suggests brides use silk flowers in arrangements. Opt for simple wedding bouquets. Finley says brides can save money on additional blooms and be trendy with a few elegant bright-colored flowers. If you want a large bouquet, pick all the same type of flower for less expense. Choose to use plants instead of flowers. Reuse the ceremony flower arrangements for the reception.

Mulligan feels there are more flower options for brides and grooms today. "Take a little time to put a new twist on it," says Mulligan.

— BY COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

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Say 'Yes' to the perfect dress

Say Yes to Which Dress?!

You're engaged! Your next big step is selecting your wedding gown. Naturally, we all want to look perfect on our special day, and selecting your wedding dress can be a bit overwhelming. Here are a few tips on how to find the ideal dress to make you feel gorgeous on your wedding day!

First, know your budget. If you fall in love with a dress you can't afford, you will spend the rest of your time dress shopping comparing everything to this specific dress. You don't want to feel like you're "settling"

for something you're not completely happy with. It's also important to make sure you let your bridal consultant know your budget before they start pulling dresses off the rack that are out of your price range.

One of the most important rules in finding your dress is to shop early! Utah is a place where, typically, your engagement won't be very long (average engagement is about 3 months). The problem with this is that between finding that perfect dress and the long manufacturing process, it can sometimes take four months to

get your dress to you. Don't miss out on your dream dress because of a disagreement with time! Although, a reputable bridal store should be able to help you find a dress with any timeline.

Find the right place to look for your gown. You need a bridal retailer who will do whatever they can to make sure that you are happy. It's our job to make you feel pampered while shopping for your wedding gown. The first impression that you get when you walk in a store is a good indicator of how your experience is going to be. A clean, organized

frequently it ends up being the consultant that pulls your dream dress off the rack. Educated consultants pull dresses that will go well with your body type; they know their products well and will find a dress to match your style.

Avoid the internet!! Internet shopping can be misleading and scary. It's hard to know if a dress shown in a picture will look the same as it does in person, and it's impossible to know if the style of dress will even look good on you. Take into consideration the benefits of purchasing at a bridal boutique that you're missing out on by purchasing online. Bridal boutiques will offer you a professional seamstress, your slip and accessories, and they will usually offer to have your gown pressed and spot cleaned before your big day. Leave it to the professionals

environment will give you peace of mind that your gown is being taken care of.

You want to go to a store with well educated consultants. So

 SEE DRESS, PAGE 13



Pick your best dress

FROM PAGE 12

to make it easier and less stressful.

When you go shopping for a wedding dress it's a good idea to just bring one or two people with you. Your mom and a close friend whose opinion you value, for example. Too many opinions can be extremely overwhelming and just confuse you. A lot of bridal stores will let you take pictures, so bring a camera! Seeing yourself in a photo will help you make your decision.

Wedding gowns are sized a lot smaller than everyday dresses. If you are normally a size 8, don't be surprised if you need a size 10 or 12 wedding gown. It's a mean thing that the bridal industry has done but, don't worry, we can rip out the tags in the dress if you are feeling down about your size; no one will ever know! Make sure you consider the time the seamstress needs for alterations so your dress is perfectly fitted to you. Also,

remember alterations are always an additional cost.

Dress the part! Put on makeup and style your hair so you feel like a bride while you try dresses on. It will give you a good idea of what you will look like on your wedding day. Wear your most alluring undergarments because you will spend the day showing them off to a stranger. And please, please take a shower; no one likes a stinky bride!

This is my last bit of advice for your wedding gown search: when you find the "perfect dress" buy it. Period. End of Story. Stop looking. A lot of times dress stores only carry one of each dress. With your luck, it will be sold the second you walk out. Again, it can take up to three months to reorder and often dresses are one of a kind or not available to reorder. Don't take the chance; if you've found the dress, make the purchase!

Remember this is one of the greatest times of your life! You've made the hardest decision already by choosing a man so make your dress selection light hearted and easy! Good luck and we wish you the best in finding the dress of your dreams!

CASEY JORGENSEN
PETALS AND PROMISES BRIDAL SHOP
LOGAN, UTAH

WEDDING FACTS

Appealing, affordable gowns

You don't have to break the bank to get a beautiful, special wedding dress. Below are some ideas to keep your gown expense reasonable.

■ Before you start shopping, set a budget on how much you're going to spend on a dress, and then tell the bridal boutique clerk that you only want to see dresses within that budget. This keeps you from falling in love with gowns you can't afford, consequently preventing you from suffering heartbreaks. If there is an embellished gown that you want that is over your price range, go for a plain dress with a similar style, and then jazz it up yourself.

■ There are many beautiful full- and tea-length bridesmaids' dresses available in many shades of white and ivory, so consider substituting one as your wedding dress. If you have bridal accessories, no one will know that it's not really a bridal gown.

■ There are many secondhand and vintage dresses available online and at specialty stores. Many only have been worn once and are in perfect condition. Before you buy a gown, check carefully for stains and damage, and always buy one that is one or two sizes larger than what fits you so it can be altered for a custom fit.

■ Design your own dress by taking bits and pieces from various bridal gown pictures, and then take it to a dressmaker to have it sewn. Or if you are excellent at sewing, you can make your own dress. There are many different patterns and fabrics available online.

SOURCE: Shopindream.com

Creators.com / Eri Hashimoto

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Gifts



FROM PAGE 9

music makes it personal.”

Traditional gifts include those that can be monogrammed with the attendants’ initials or the wedding date. Popular choices include sterling silver necklaces or bracelets for women and cuff links, pens, business card cases and lager glasses for men.

There is a growing interest in nontraditional gifts for attendants, according to Candice Lapin of Para ti Novia, a Web site for Latina brides.

“What we are seeing in terms of trend are a lot of do-it-yourself or eco-friendly gifts from the heart, totally eco-friendly and reusable gifts, such as homemade jam or jelly in a recycled jar or hand-sewn totes,” she says.

Lapin says that popular gifts are also ones that have an “old-time” feel, such as handkerchiefs with embroidery and handmade frames, and anything that looks vintage, such as old aprons, journals and photo albums.

Couples who are ecologically conscious or having green weddings have various attendant gift options – such as Earth to Gert reusable bags (<http://www.Earth-ToGert.com>), which are made from cotton organically grown in the United States or from recycled plastic cloth. The bags can be personalized with the wedding date, a favorite quote or an image and can be reused long after the happy day.

Other environmentally conscious gifts are personalized reusable drinking bottles or coffee tumblers engraved with the wedding date or a special message. Michael A. Aaron, president of Greensender.com, says his company has received orders of up to a dozen bottles for attendants’ gifts.

Personalized bottle orders have included a fishing image with each groomsman’s name engraved on the bottle and a peace

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sign with the name of each bridesmaid.

There are gift options that are appropriate for attendants of both sexes, such as photo albums customized with individual names. Freeze Frame Publishing (<http://www.FreezeFramePublishing.com>) produces a range of albums in various sizes and prices (from \$29.99 to \$89.99).

The PortaPocket (<http://www.PortaPocket.com>) is one attendant gift that could come in handy during the wedding. A lightweight carrying case designed to be strapped on a leg or arm, it keeps keys, cell phones, sanitary products, lipstick or medicine out of sight on the wedding day and afterward when jogging or traveling. The PortaPocket is \$25.

One unique way to mark the day is to provide attendants with commemorative coins. Coins for Anything (<http://www.CoinsForAnything.com>) has seen a marked increase in wedding orders for its custom-designed coins. A photo inset technology is used to create the image desired, such as the bride and groom.

Gifts to attendants normally are presented about the time of the wedding, Anna Post says. “The gifts can be given in private but are usually presented as a group, such as at the rehearsal dinner,” she says. “It’s all right to give a gift for them to wear the next day at the wedding, such as necklaces, bracelets or cuff links.”

When in doubt, traditional choices are safest, she advises. “The bride and groom should think carefully and ask themselves, ‘Am I sure this will go over well?’ If they’re not sure, then they should go with another gift,” Post says.

— Ginny Frizzi, Creators.com

What's on the menu?

Choosing party foods to please you and your guests

Of all the decisions a couple must make while planning their wedding - and the list is long - choosing the right menu can be one of the most daunting. Selecting hors d'oeuvres and dinner for a large group of well-wishers, some of whom you may not even know, presents challenges you won't come across as you make your weekly grocery list.

Coming up with a lively and intriguing menu that reflects the personality of the happy couple is just as important as choosing the right reception hall or the perfect flowers. While couples want to serve food with some flair, they need to keep in mind who will be attending, and if they share the same sense of culinary adventure as they do. Couples should try to strike a balance between offering an overly exotic array of foods and trying to please every last guest, said Millie Martini Bratten, editor in chief of Brides magazine.

"I think that they should think about the whole group, and probably realize that most people don't routinely go for very unusual food. And if you decide that it's going to be food of one ethnic type make sure you have something that's not spicy for those who can't tolerate spice," Bratten advised. "Think about what you're asking your guests to eat and plan with that in mind. But it is your wedding. Take some guidance from the caterer, also."

When you sit down with the caterer to go over the menu, they will want to know if any of your guests have any dietary restrictions and exactly what they are. If someone is allergic to peanut oil or can't have anything with milk in it, most caterers will be able to accommodate them, if they know in advance. Including a line on the invitations asking guests to list any special needs when they RSVP will help the caterer



Changing culinary trends in the United States through the years have given couples different options that would have seemed radical 25 years ago. Serving sushi at a reception would have raised some eyebrows in the 1970s, but now it's a common sight.

know what to expect.

"One of the most important things to remember is who are the guests that are going to be there. No just (the couple's) own personal taste, because a lot of times that enters into it," said Jerry Siegel, owner of Peartrees Catering in San Diego. "I think the important things are, number one, you tailor the menu to the guests that are there, and just try to find out in advance any special dietary needs."

Getting the menu just right doesn't happen overnight. In the months prior to the wedding, couples should meet face to face with the caterer to discuss what they're looking for that fits their price range.

"We talk to them on the phone the first time around, come up with a tentative scenario, so we can give them an idea of the price range, what it costs more or less," said Michel Malecot, a caterer in California since 1979. "Then the next step is they

come over, we narrow down the menu, we do a tasting so they actually see what the food looks like, they get a feel for it."

Changing culinary trends in the United States through the years have given couples different options that would have seemed radical 25 years ago. Serving sushi at a reception would have raised some eyebrows in the 1970s, but now it's a common sight.

"Today, sushi, somosas, bruschetta, it's all available. ... Years ago you went to a wedding and you had roast beef or you had chicken," Bratten said. "And now you can have roast beef, you can have a fabulous pasta, you can have an amazing soup or an incredible stew, or heavy hors d'oeuvres and a very light salad for dinner. So people are mixing it up in very interesting ways. "I think the keys things to keep in mind are: This is not the moment to experiment with the entire menu, and make sure everyone feels very welcome and comfortable and they have enough to eat."

But today's couples





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Location, location, location

Thoughts on booking the 'where' of your wedding day

By Amanda Rockne “&
Arlette Michaelson

It is said that one of the most important factors for a business to “get right” is its location and so it is true with your big day. Although your big day may last only one day, finding the best place to hold it will help ensure a lifetime of wonderful memories. It's every couple's wish to find the ideal location for their wedding celebration; after all, more than anything else, it will literally set the stage for the entire event. Chances are you already have an idea of the tone you want your wedding to have. Perhaps you've always dreamed of a formal seated dinner under a chandeliered ceiling, or a outdoor candlelit meal with only your closest family and friends. Or maybe you're picturing a playful day at an offbeat location, such as a baseball field. If nothing immediately stands out, however, look to your personal style. Think about your favorite hobbies, colors, flowers, foods, even the decor of your home. Choosing a theme can really get the creative juices flowing. These preferences will point you toward the kinds of sites that might suit you.

Logan has a nice variety of venues to choose from, but they all vary in style, size, & atmosphere. Careful consideration early on in the planning process will help you with this important decision. Here are a few tips to take into consideration when looking at the big wedding day picture:

Save the Date

Select a day. Often venues are booked 3-6 months out and Fridays & Saturdays are often the first to go. Be open to scheduling a mid-week event. Weekdays are usually available and may even be more affordable. No one will complain that you've started the honeymoon early and removed the stress of attending multiple social obligations over the weekend. Consider the time of year. More weddings are booked when it's warm

outside.

No Way to Sugar Coat It – Budget

Is the venue within your budget? Often a budget is set without knowing the actual costs. Set up a time to take a tour of the locations you are considering. Gather materials and take notes. Prioritize aspects of the wedding that are most important to you. By compromising in some areas, you can afford to splurge on others. How long will you need the space? Some locations book their venue by the day others by the hour. Ask about hourly rates and typical blocks of time. If you think your event may extend beyond regular hours of operation, be sure to know what's included and possible costs. Make sure you consider time to decorate and clean up if the venue requires it. Wedding days can be hectic and the more you have figured out never hurts.

A site with a fee that includes necessities such as linens and furniture may at first appear more expensive than an a la carte venue, but once you factor in rental fees, you may ultimately keep costs down.

Have your wedding and reception in the same location. You'll spend less on décor, as well as on transportation costs for you and your wedding attendants.

If the Space Fits...

Make a guest list. You should have a rough number on how many guests you plan to invite before contacting venues.

What are your space requirements? Are you planning a grooms dinner, wedding ceremony, wedding reception, or luncheon? Will you need a place for



photographs or a bride's room? You may need multiple rooms or locations depending on your needs. Some venues can provide enough space for everything and it's just a matter of timing. Others may not have a kitchen or only one main room.

If you have a large guest list, consider an open house event. A smaller guest list allows for a more intimate setting. Depending on the group size and the space you could consider a sit down dinner, dancing, or possibly live band. The space needs to match the expectation. Make sure who ever is planning the event is on the same page with the bride & groom.

What kind of space are you looking for? If you are booking multiple events make sure there is enough space to accommodate the number of guests you plan to invite.

A-V Geek Included?

Many venues provide additional services. These services could range anywhere from a sound system to

Picking just the right location

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an I-pod jack, to projectors and flat screen TV's. Though these extras are not always essential, they add atmosphere and enhance the overall mood of the event.

If you plan on having a live band or a dj, make sure your venue can accommodate their needs. It never hurts to inquire about practical uses of space, sound level restrictions, and technical requirements.

Depending on the size and set-up of your event, you may need access to a microphone. Even Great Aunt Vera in the back wants to hear your vows.

Consider the lighting capabilities. Does the venue have dimmers or allow candles to be lit? All those hours you spent choosing the right shade of pink for your cheeks and the perfect silhouette for your dress will have been for naught if you don't have the proper lighting.

Bon Appetite

Are you planning to hire a professional service for food? Does the venue offer onsite catering? Does your venue allow self-catering or outside caterers and does this include an additional fee? Some locations may require you to use a specific caterer. Some locations may not have the space to accommodate food preparation. Be sure to familiarize yourself with the venue's catering, food handling, and alcohol policies.

Many catering businesses provide linens as



do some of the venues. Be sure to ask about table and chair coverings, as well as table settings, and if additional charges may apply.

Space is important when considering the menu. Depending on the space and the set-up, it may require you to serve your guests. If you have extra space you could consider buffet style. Another option is to seat family-style at long tables no wider than 36 inches, you'll shrink the amount of empty space to decorate and cut down on centerpiece costs. Guests will still have plenty of room and will find conversation easier as well.

Icing on the Cake

Decorations add the final finishing touches to the event. Some venues may require more decorating than others to achieve the desired look. However the venue may offer items such as vases, lanterns, back-

drops, floral services, or furnishings. Design elements like tables & chairs can either add to or subtract from your event. It's always good to find out what is included in the rental agreement.

There are many local companies that specialize in wedding decorations. If the venue you are looking for is missing that special prop, it is probably just a phone call away and a nominal charge.

ADDITIONAL CONTACTS:

•Amanda Rockne, Bullen Center Scheduling
Bullen Center:
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Logan.
435-753-6518
ext. 10
ARockne@Center-
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www.bullencenter.

org

•Arlette Michaelson
The Riter Mansion: 168 North
100 East, Logan
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Arlette@TheRiterMansion.com
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Food ideas

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can also have a little fun with some whimsical hors d'oeuvres that their parents will remember.

"While we are seeing more crab meat and lobster being served as appetizers, we're also seeing pigs in a blanket, as a fun, kitschy, retro kind of a thing. And Swedish meatballs. Retro canapes are back. Deviled eggs, baked brie, puffed pastries and stuffed olives, those things are back and they're new to people now," Bratten said.

"You can do a lot of things with vegetables that are really nice," Siegel said. "I always tell the bride and groom you need to reflect your personality in your menu. Without getting too experimental we still came up with some very interesting things that made everybody happy."

--By TOM ROEBUCK
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

Here are some ideas on how to avoid common mistakes

Brides, here are some thoughts from others who have been through the wedding wars.

Avoid These Costly Mistakes:

1. Procrastinating: Start planning your wedding as soon as you get engaged. There is so much to do and so many people that you will need to rely on. The more time that you allow, the more choices you will have and the easier on your pocketbook. Also, extremely short engagements can be stressful. Jump right on it!

2. No Vision or Theme makes for a fragmented look and flow. Envision your wedding day in your mind from the moment you wake up to the end of the day. A theme should emerge that will help you have continuity and a pleasing outcome.

3. Trying to do it alone: This can get ugly. Even if your family is not available, delegate some tasks to trustworthy friends. You would do the same for them.

4. No Budget or Unrealistic Budget. Although you can't know exactly what you will spend on each item, try to set an overall budget and what you can spend in each category. Be realistic, we're in 2008 not 1950.

5. Vendor Disaster. Hiring the wrong vendor. You only get one chance and it needs to be right. Check references. Don't hire friends or relatives unless you would hire them if they weren't connected.

6. No agreements: If money is to

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Avoiding common mistakes

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be exchanged you should have a contract spelling out the details and outlining what each party can expect from the other that is dated and signed. Make sure you keep track of your copy.

7. Bridezilla obsessing about the wedding. Have one day a week when nobody talks about the wedding. It will help you to enjoy the process. Pace yourself.

8. Assuming that things will work themselves out on their own. Don't be afraid to make decisions. Trust your gut. Nobody knows what you want unless you tell them. Confident communication is key. Many of your details can be arranged by your mom, sister or trusted friend. Some things will require your attention. Make a list of what you need to do, broken down by tasks. Divide the tasks by how many months you have left. Prioritize what must be done first. Take

one day per week when you will focus on your wedding planning.

9. Waiting to order your gown and attendants' dresses. Bridesmaids come in all shapes and sizes. You may need to special order so that the dyelot (shade) matches which takes 2-10 weeks for the dresses to arrive. Wedding Gowns can take anywhere from 5 to 17 weeks depending on the source. Rush charges eat into your budget. Not getting the right dresses is one headache you can avoid with a little pre-planning.

10. Allowing the wishes of the bride to be overruled by someone with their own agenda or those who think they



are experts. When hearing advice, just smile, nod and tell them thank you. If they are not a professional in the area of planning weddings or paying, it is just an opinion, nothing more. Remember, this is your wedding.

For more advice, timely information, make a comment or ask a question, please visit our blog at gallerybylynette.blogspot.com

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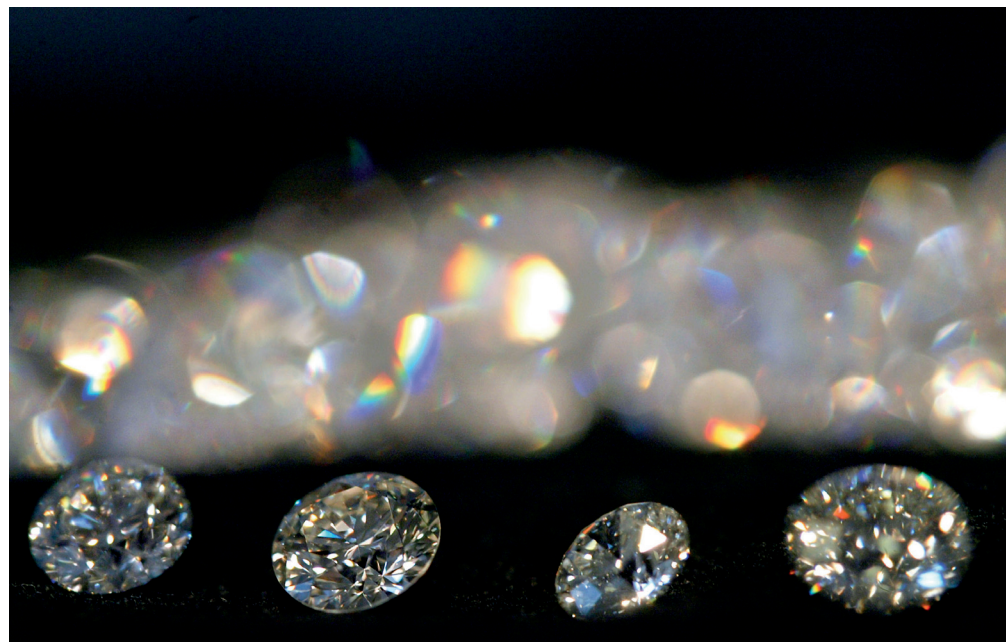
Stone-cold advice for finding the perfect diamond

Buying a diamond isn't too different an experience from buying a car. Decide what's most important, what you like the best and what you can afford. With a little research and patience, you'll have an investment that will bring years of pleasure. Simple, right?

It is, says Mike Schramm, owner of Schramm-Bacher Jewelers Inc. in Springfield, Ill. When it comes to buying a diamond, he says, "there's nothing mystical there. You either like it or you don't." And because a diamond purchase will outlast a car by many years, it's important to feel confident you've bought the right one. The four main diamond characteristics are cut, color, clarity and carat weight, says Betty Sowarsh, co-owner of Bridge Jewelry Co. Inc. For Sowarsh, the most important feature is the cut.

CUT

"The cutting of the diamond - not the shape, but the proportions and facets designed to get the maximum amount of brilliance or sparkle - is most important," Sowarsh says. "A well-cut diamond talks back to you. It says, 'Here I am!'" Schramm agrees. "The things that affect the appearance of a diamond are not necessarily the things that affect the



Round brilliant is a classic center-stone shape for the engagement ring. But it's the cut that makes the diamond sparkle. These ideal-cut gems reflect light, creating brilliance and fire.

price. The color and clarity will always affect the price, but the cutting will have more influence on the actual appearance. So, for absolute best appearance, the cutting is what I start with. Everything else is secondary."

The cutting should be as close to "ideal" as possible, Sowarsh says. In an ideal cut, light enters the diamond and returns to the eye, guaranteeing brilliance and fire. If a cut is too deep or too shallow, the light enters the diamond but "leaks out" the bottom or side and doesn't return to the eye.

COLOR

Most diamonds are rated by how close to colorless, or white, they are. The more colorless (ratings of D, E or F), the more expensive the stone. Prices go down accordingly, from near colorless through light yellow (ratings of G through Z). Diamonds come in every

color of the rainbow, though, Schramm says. Blues and pinks are more rare, and can be several times more expensive. He had one diamond in his store in the late 1980s valued at \$200,000. It was not a typical steel blue, he says, but much like a sky blue topaz. There were only two other comparable stones in the world, one in New York City and one in Switzerland.

Most blue diamonds are artificially colored, though, says Brian

Lauer, president of Stout & Lauer Jewelers. Diamonds with poor color

have been intensely irradiated in a laboratory to alter the color. Natural blue colors are so faint that, usually, if someone selects a distinctly blue diamond, it probably has been irradiated.

CLARITY

This describes the degree

of imperfection, or inclusions. The standard is an internally flawless ("I") diamond, with no inclusions visible under 10-power magnification. A "vv" rated diamond has "very very" slight inclusions, "vvs1" may have a tiny inclusion, "vvs2" may have two, "si1" and "si2" are slightly imperfect with more noticeable inclusions that are relatively easy to locate. "Imperfect" ratings have obvious imperfections, visible to the naked eye.

CARAT

Also referred to as "points," this roughly is the size and weight of a diamond. A full one-carat diamond will have 100 points, a three-quarter-carat is 70-79 points, and a one-half carat is equivalent to 47-59 points. There also are "light" 90-99 point carats, light 42-47 point half carats, and so on.

There also is the mounting (the ring without the center stone) and shape of



Diamonds are as simple as the 4 C's

FROM PAGE 22

the center diamond to consider. A classic center-stone shape is the round brilliant, which, Sowarsh says, is the "most sparkly." Other shapes include rectangular/emerald, heart, elongated and pointed oval marquise, oval, pear, trillion or triangle, and radiant modified rectangle.

The center stone can be set into a classic 2 mm, plain, polished band with a solitaire mounting, Lauer says. Or, perhaps a more contemporary design is desired, such as a wide, 8 mm band and half- or full-bezel setting. A bezel is a band that surrounds the diamond rather than the stone being held by four or six prongs. A half-bezel encloses the diamond like parentheses, exposing more of it to light.

Jewelry store manager Mark Fandel has seen a lot of interest in the pave and micro-pave designs. (Small, bead-set stones surround a center stone and run along the sides of a ring.) One popular shape is the princess cut, a square shape. It's popular, Schramm says, because less of the stone is lost in the cutting. However, this shape never was intended as a center stone, he adds, and is more easily damaged in certain center settings where its pointed, not beveled, corners are exposed.

"A diamond has a grain, just like wood," Schramm says. "And if you hit it along

the grain, you can damage it. It's not easy, but it's possible."



Also, he says, the princess shape is cut nearly flat across the top. The "crown angle" from the edge (girdle) to the top (table) should be about 34 degrees. The lower the angle, the more susceptible the diamond will be to damage.

"The princess shape is almost all table, no angle," he says. For a more stable and better-looking square diamond, Schramm recommends the beveled, not pointed, corners. Radiant and Lucere shapes are both more stable and more attractive, with comparable affordability.

A hard hit can loosen a diamond. For this reason, the quality of the "bench work," everything from the metal-work to placing the stone into the head, is essential. High-quality, well-cast metal; appropriate selection of the head (prong work, bar work, bead setting, etc.); methodical and complete cleaning; measuring; firing; polishing; and positioning ensure the stone stays in place.

Before customers make a decision, Schramm makes sure they have looked at their selection under a microscope. "There are so many things about buying a diamond that



Diamonds last forever, so take care to find a favorite.

can be really fun and very interesting. You can really see the differences (among the diamonds)."

Lab reports that come with some diamonds are no substitute for a trained, experienced jeweler, Schramm says. "We take time so they can decide ultimately what they want and understand what they're buying so that, when they get done, they know they're buying a nice piece of jewelry."

And the process is in-

deed simple, Sowarsh says. "When you compare diamonds, you'll usually see one and say, 'Oh! That's beautiful.'"

Others may be larger, but won't shine, be as pretty or draw as many compliments, she says. Get the beautiful one, the one you like, Sowarsh says. "You'll always be proud of it."

— DIANNE CROWN,
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

The right music can make or break

One of the biggest train wrecks that can happen to a wedding is booking the wrong music. Finding the right music. A bad DJ or music choice can make it a night to remember, for better or for worse.

The first step for most couples looking for DJs is the Internet, searching for companies that serve their areas. Any reputable DJ will have a Web site that lists not only his/her services and prices but also his/her sense of style. Then there are independent Web sites, such as WeddingWire, on which couples post their experiences with different vendors. That can give you an idea of whom to pursue and whom to avoid.

But searching the Web should only be a first step. A couple never should make a decision without a face-to-face meeting with the DJ who will be working that night, according to Evan Reitmeyer, president of MyDeejay.com.

"People can come across very differently on their Web site or on the telephone than they can in person," Reitmeyer says. "You can spot a fake in

person very easily."

The pre-wedding meeting is the time for the couple and the DJ to go over the reception's timeline, playlist and style. A couple may be looking for a polished professional who can emcee the evening without being overbearing, minus the big, flashy introductions of the wedding party. They may have a list of songs for the entire night, or they may have a few in mind and let the DJ pick the rest. Getting everything in order beforehand will make things a lot easier when the big day arrives.

Though the reception is the time for everybody to let loose and have a good time, more couples are skipping stale routines, such as the chicken dance and the Macarena, and leaving the Village People costumes and other props at home. A good playlist that features a mixture of upbeat songs from various eras, along with a good DJ who knows how to read an audience, should be enough to get people on the dance floor. An open bar always helps, too.

"Cheese is on its way out, and really

individualized music, custom timelines and things being nontraditional are what's in fashion right now," Reitmeyer says.

Some traditions are too special to go away, such as the first dance. Others are fading away, notably the bouquet and garter tosses.

"This generation that's getting married now is a little more sensitive to calling out all of their single friends and saying, 'Hey, everyone, look at all of these girls that aren't married yet,'" Reitmeyer says.

More and more couples are going with the concept that less is more, opting for receptions that aren't cluttered with too many gimmicks.

"More traditions are ending than being created," Reitmeyer says.

With fewer traditions being carried out, the playlist becomes even more important. It's the music that will make or break the evening.

"The biggest thing to having a successful wedding reception is having a bride and groom that are a little self-aware and also aware of the guests that are coming and the age ranges of those guests," Reitmeyer says. — Copley News

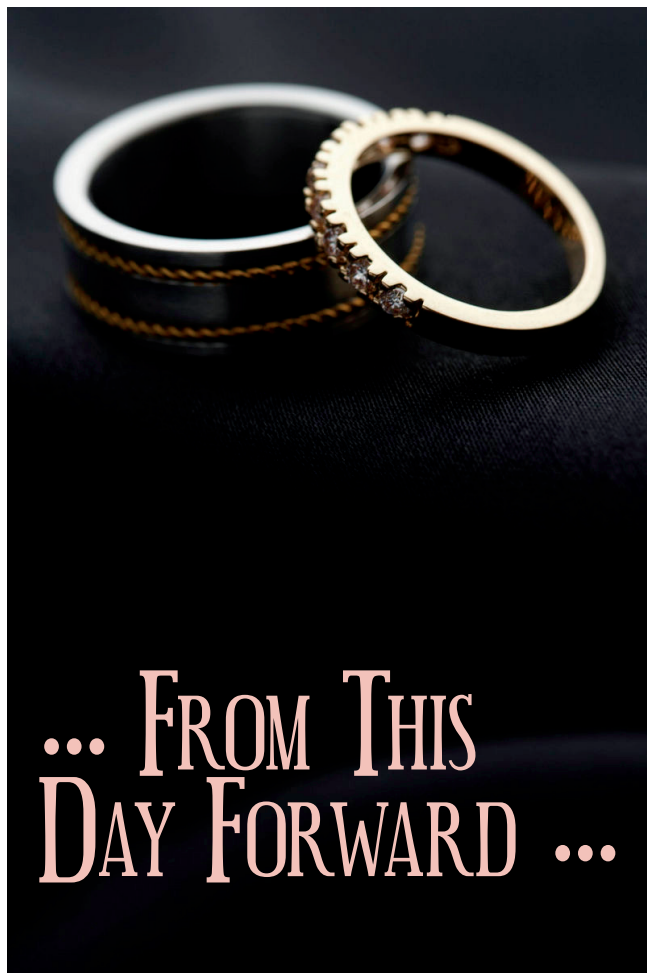


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... FROM THIS
DAY FORWARD ...

There's plenty to do after you say 'I Do'

You're coming off a wedding planning whirlwind, a fabulous day of officially becoming man and wife and a honeymoon that you're wishing never ended. But the reality is, it did. Now what? While it might seem like a good time to sit back, relax and revel in the fact that you "really did it," your work isn't done just yet, newlyweds. Riann Smith, deputy editor of TheNest.com, shares the top 10 to-do's after saying "I do."

TACKLE THE LEGALITIES

Chances are, you still have your parents listed as your beneficiaries. Consult with your family attorney and appoint your spouse as your beneficiary within two weeks of the wedding, Smith said. Also within that time period, figure out whose insurance plan you want to use. If your spouse's insurance is less expensive and you can continue going to your trusted doctors, merge onto his or her plan.

FIGURE OUT YOUR FINANCES

Prior to getting married, you should have discussed and decided how you want to handle your finances. Within two

weeks following the wedding, you'll want to put those decisions into action. If you decided to have two separate accounts and one joint account, go to the bank and open up the joint account. If you received checks as wedding gifts and they're addressed to both of you, you'll need to decide how you're going to spend or save that money. Make the decision together and quickly.

SEND OUT THANK-YOU NOTES

Old-school etiquette says you have a year to send wedding guests a thank-you note. Today's etiquette recommends doing it sooner rather than later. Don't wait longer than six months, Smith said. The longer you wait, the foggier your memory will be. Guests want to be acknowledged for the time and energy they used to pick out a gift for you. Don't just say "thank you for the gift." Each thank-you note needs to be personalized and specific. You might say something like: "Thank you for the red Le Creuset dutch oven. The color matches our kitchen perfectly." Since personalizing each note takes quite a bit of time, Smith recommends splitting the task up between the two of you and each doing 10 a night between commercial breaks.

GIVE EVERYONE YOUR NEW ADDRESS

In this technologically advanced society, it's perfectly acceptable to send out a mass e-mail letting everyone know your new address. However, not all your guests may use computers. If your 90-year-old grandmother is more of a traditional mail user, send her card (check out movingannouncementstore.com) with your new address. If your best friend eats, works, sleeps and vacations with her BlackBerry, sending her an e-mail with your new locale is probably best. This should be done within six weeks.

TACKLE BRIDAL REGISTRY RETURNS

Don't assume you can return gifts for up to a year. Make sure you know and understand each store's return policy. Even if a store has a 90-day return policy, don't wait that long. Return items within two months after the wedding, Smith said. Things go on sale and you want to make sure you get the full value of the item. Smith said the most painless way to return wedding gifts is to group them together by store and tackle each store at one time.

CHANGE YOUR NAME

Whether you're going to take your husband's name or hyphenate, do it within three months post-wedding. Smith suggests beginning with your driver's license, then moving on to your Social Security card, credit cards and pass-





With this ring comes responsibility, including facing the tax man.

What comes next?

FROM PAGE 25

port. If you don't have the time to do this or just plain don't want to do it, visit www.uslegalforms.com and pay them \$169 to do it for you. They also have a name-change kit that includes all the required government forms and a checklist for around \$32.95.

CLEAN AND STORE YOUR GOWN

Whether or not you think you

want to keep your dress or you're unsure, Smith says "clean it anyway." The fabrics used on wedding gowns are typically delicate and require special cleaning. If you leave that streak of self-tanner or that spot of red wine on your dress for two years, then decide you want to preserve your dress, chances are the stains won't come out.

AGREE ON WHERE YOU'RE SPENDING THE HOLIDAYS

It's not even so much that there will be tension between you and your spouse, it's your in-laws, Smith said. Whether you're getting married in October or February, Smith urges couples to make the holiday location decision within three months of the wedding. If you and your spouse celebrate different holidays, the time commitments for each holiday celebration may be different. "Work out a solution that will make everyone happy," Smith said. Some couples find success in alternating holidays with each side of the family - Thanksgiving with her family, Christmas with his. Or, host the holidays at your home and invite everyone.

CHOOSE PHOTOS/FINALIZE DVD

Getting your wedding photo proofs and/or DVD back is one of the most exciting post-wedding moments, but choosing which of the proofs you want to order can be rather daunting. Within six months after your wedding, go through the photos with your spouse and select the ones you think best capture your day. And, make sure you like the edit on your DVD. Make sure you read and understand your contracts so you aren't faced with any surprise charges.

CALL THE TAX MAN

Figure out if you're going to file taxes separately or jointly by December of the year you're getting married, Smith said. Decide on which one of you has the better accountant and go with that person. You'll most likely get more of a tax break if you file jointly, but this is something to discuss with the accountant you decide to employ.

— COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

Thanks should be given

FROM PAGE 11

or initials on it. Personalization is very big for weddings in general. The favor is just another way to add a personal touch to the day."

Gifts of food aren't the only option, though. Keepsakes that come in handy long after your wedding day are also in vogue.

"Everyone loves something that they can use later on - maybe a little potted plant or a CD of the couple's favorite songs. Anything that will be a reminder is appropriate," Mauer said.

"If you have a lot of out-of-town

guests, it's nice to do something that's kind of a souvenir. If the couple lives in New York City, they might have miniature taxicabs or fresh apples with personalized tags on them to represent the Big Apple. If you are in Maryland, you might give out crab-shaped cookies."

TIPPING

Gratuities are more often than not included in the cost of wedding services. However, if a wedding vendor, waiter or other person has gone above and beyond the call of duty, extra tipping is appropriate. Here are some people who should receive a tip on the

wedding day:

- Limousine driver should receive 15 percent of the bill if a tip hasn't already been included.

- Organist and musicians at the ceremony should receive at least \$50 per person.

- If your reception features a maitre d' or head waiter who oversees the staff, this person should be tipped as well.

THANK-YOU NOTES

These simple notes are a must for each gift you receive. They should be handwritten and mention the gift given. If a guest gave you money, do not mention the specific amount, but do say how you plan to spend it.

Be sure to include your new address on the return label.— Copley News



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